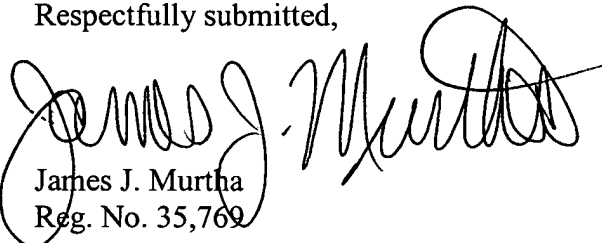


REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on February 17, 2004 for the above-identified reissue application. The Examiner objected to aspects of the Amendments proposed on December 8, 2003 for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.173(b). The amendments submitted in the December 8 Response are re-submitted herein and are believed to conform to 37 C.F.R. §1.173(b). Specifically, the markings of amendments to claims 30, 45, 54, 62, 63 and 78-87 have been corrected. The newly submitted amended figures include the word "amended" adjacent to the figure number. The amendment to the Specification at col. 9, line 56 to col. 10, line 20, has been corrected to reflect the deletion of the word "termina" rather than "terminal". The annotated drawings and the Appendix have not been resubmitted since they have not been changed. The Amendment is now believed to be in accord with and the case is believed to be in condition for allowance. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



James J. Murtha
Reg. No. 35,769

Becton Dickinson and Company
1 Becton Drive
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417-1880
201-847-7160
December 4, 2003

#72494 v.2